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The Bates Student

THE VOICE OF BATES COLLEGE SINCE 1873

WEDNESDAY May 1, 2013

Vol. 142, Issue. 17

Lewiston, Maine

FORUM

Are genetically modified foods good?
Rheingold '14 argues that the benefits of GM foods outweigh potential concerns



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Bob Dylan struts the stage in Lewiston
Rube '16 analyzes the musical legend's performance at the Colisee



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Men's tennis wraps up regular season with victory
Bobcats down Wesleyan 6-3 to secure fourth seed in upcoming NESCAC tourney



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Introducing the Bates Public Health Initiative

SARAH DURGY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A month ago, Bates approved a club that allows students to craft curriculums to cut down sugary drink consumption, volunteer at a free health care clinic, and even administer flu shots to those in need. This fall, Dr. Alice Haines was looking for Bates students to assist her as she set up the Free Clinic at the Trinity Jubilee Center. Two of the volunteers, Lianna Cohen '13 and Michael Arsnow '14, decided that the project provided a perfect jumping off point to form a group for students passionate about public health. The two cofounded the Bates Public Health Initiative (PHI).

PHI aims to go beyond simply building up public health awareness on the Bates campus. In the words of club secretary Tara Patel '15, the club strives to, "determine the public health needs in the Lewiston Auburn community and to come up with ways to address them by working with community partners."

In this way, PHI provides a unique opportunity for students to interact with and aid the Lewiston-Auburn community while exploring their interest in public health. Cohen stresses the need for a public health focused group on campus based on the diverse group of students the club has attracted thus far. Around 40 students have already joined PHI. Many were drawn to the club for the interdisciplinary nature of public health.

"Students majoring in politics, economics, sociology, anthropology, environmental studies, women and gender studies, and other fields including the sciences, will find some aspect of public health that they can engage with," noted Cohen.

In other words, experience in the public health field can assist students

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ZUHAYR REAZ '16/THE BATES STUDENT

Experimental College: By Bates, for Bates

JULIA MONGEAU
STAFF WRITER

Do you want to learn how to longboard, chant poetry or dance like Shakira? Well, here at Bates, Experimental College looks to make your dreams a reality. The Student Activities Office sponsors Experimental College during short term. Experimental College allows all members of the Bates community to take a three to four week co-curricular or extracurricular course, not for credit. It is a great way to learn a new skill or explore a subject you don't have to time to study during the regular semester.

This short term, the Experimental College course line-up offers quite the

selection. The Bates community can yarn bomb Bates, explore and reflect on the life of the spirit, longboard, learn Vietnamese, and more.

Amanda Zakowich '16 is excited for her first Experimental College experience. She is signed up for Lady Longboarding, Intro to Slacklining, and Intro to the Low Countries: Dutch Language and Culture. Zakowich is looking forward to bonding with her classmates, and learning new skills. She is unafraid of the scrapes and bruises she may get along the way.

"I chose Slacklining because it's one of those random skills that would be cool to know and Lady Longboarding because I've always wanted to longboard

but never had the opportunity to learn," said Zakowich.

Zakowich also loves how Experimental College is so representative of Bates.

"I think that offering Experimental College at Bates shows that the school believes in giving students an opportunity to teach other students and for students to learn from other students is beneficial," she said.

Experimental College is certainly one unique learning experience offered at Bates. So this short term, if you're tired of sunbathing at the amphitheater or playing Frisbee on the quad, check out some of Bates' awesome Experimental College.

Bates debate excels at nationals

SAMUEL LEARNER
STAFF WRITER

This past April, the Brooks Quimby Debate Council finished off the year with two national debate tournaments. The first was the British Parliamentary Nationals, hosted by the University of La Verne in California between April 12th and 14th. British Parliamentary debate features four, two-person teams. Two teams—"opening" and "closing"—take the "government" side, which argues in favor of a certain resolution (i.e., "this House would legalize gay marriage"). The other side, or "opposition," likewise consists of two opening and closing teams that argue against the motion. Interestingly, while the two teams on a given side will both argue for or against the same motion, each team actually competes with the other on its side to see who can argue the same point better.

According to sophomore debater Matt Summers, Bates had a "phenomenal showing" at nationals. After the preliminary rounds, all teams are ranked depending on how they performed. A good performance in preliminaries is essentially because the competition is seeded. In other words, the better you do early on, the easier the rest of the tournament will be.

After the preliminaries, Summers and his partner, senior Eric Devaux, were in fifth position, followed by seniors Ben Smith and Cat Djang in sixth, and sophomore Taylor Blackburn and senior Virginia Flatow in seventh, out of 160 teams. The top 32 teams in the tournament advanced to the knockout rounds of the tournament. Each team then advanced to the quarterfinals, and Blackburn and Flatow even advanced to the semifinals. At this point, only eight teams remained in the competition, each fighting for a spot in the final round. In a terrific showing for Bates, Blackburn and Flatow lost in a narrow three-two decision—just one vote away from advancing to the final round of nationals.

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Why you should volunteer at the Blake Street Towers

KATIE SGARRO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As a one-month period where many students' only formal responsibility is one class, short term marks the perfect time to delve into community service projects in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area. One such noteworthy volunteer opportunity is the Blake Street Towers (BST). The Towers is a public residence-housing complex for the elderly and the young disabled of lower socioeconomic means. Every week, Bates students partake in fun activities with the residents—including playing board games, serving brunch or simply enjoying a friendly conversation.

The effort to increase the number of Bates volunteers at BST is currently lead by Matt Gee '16, a Harvard Center Student Volunteer Fellow (SVF). Although all SVFs work as a team, Gee's primary focus is BST (volunteering at the Towers is part of Gee's job description). Gee is also responsible for organizing the programs and recruiting volunteers for the Towers.

Specifically, Gee runs two programs a week for BST residents. Thursday afternoon is "game day" (Bates students play board games like Pokeno, Bingo, and Yahtzee with BST residents). On Sunday mornings, Bates students prepare and serve free brunch to the residents. Typically, 3 to 4 Bates students volunteer each day. Gee personally volunteers at BST twice a week.

"Since my second visit to BST I was hooked. I saw how happy the residents were to see us young people and I was determined to do everything that I could to make their lives more pleasant. My experience at BST has been very rewarding, and as an SVF I have gained leadership skills and learned the value of all people no matter what age or disability," said Gee.

In addition to the weekly activities run by the SVF, in the past a number of Bates' student organizations have also hosted special events for BST residents. For instance, Bates students have held Roots and Shoot's gardening days for the residents. Also, various Bates a cappella groups and the Strange Bedfellows (the sole improvisational comedy group at Bates) have put on performances for the residents. Other past special events include holiday meals and parties. This short term, the Deansmen will be visiting the Towers.

"This short term I am planning a musical performance by a string quartet of Bates students and the Deansmen," commented Gee.

So why should you volunteer at the Towers? Gee stresses BST's relaxed and fun nature.

"People should volunteer at BST because it is a low commitment program. I know that many people want to volunteer but are afraid that if they volunteer once, they will be obligated to go every week. With the BST program, we have had volunteers that only come



Thao Dang '16 playing Pokeno with residents of the Blake Street Towers. MATT GEE '16/THE BATES STUDENT

once to those who come every week. This program is also genuinely fun and rewarding. The "work" consists of playing games, cooking, and talking to people. Volunteers also enjoy seeing the noticeable mood lift in the residents due to their presence," explained Gee.

While an afternoon of volunteer-

ing may not seem like a huge deal to a Bates student, one afternoon can have a substantial impact on one or more BST resident.

"The residents of BST love Bates students, so why not brighten someone's day?" pointed out Gee.

There are a plethora of reasons to

volunteer at the Towers such as lifting someone's spirit, to relax, to have fun, as a study-break, for a community service project, etc. There are far fewer reasons not to volunteer. Chances are you, as a volunteer, will benefit just as much from your time at the Towers as the BST residents. What do you have to lose?

Forum >> Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We are writing in response to the critique of cultural studies courses in Alex Daugherty's Forum article of March 20, 2013, entitled "Short Term Needs to be Revamped."

In addition to the article's description found on the Bates College website, our understanding of at least one important purpose for Short Term's curriculum is to present both faculty and students with an opportunity to experiment with new subjects of inquiry and innovative modes of analysis. We also find this five week period enables a kind of immersion in cultural texts impossible during the regular semester.

Such efforts represent state of the art in our respective disciplines. The television series *The Wire* and the overarching reach of *The Disney Empire* form part of a network of college courses across the nation.

Through the process of subjecting cultural texts to critical, anthropological and cinematic analysis, students learn to discern America's contested beliefs and values by unearthing the cultural politics embedded in popular extended dramatic narratives. Such demystification entails delving beyond apparent surface messages to reveal underlying tensions, recurring contradictions, and even counter-hegemonic themes with respect to the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability and nation.

We are profoundly aware of the growing apprehension of Bates students about the constricted job market for graduates of liberal arts colleges. In fact, President Spencer has been conducting a series of luncheon meetings for faculty entitled "Purposeful Work" to address this very issue in a variety of ways other than entirely "revamping" Short Term. As the "working group" of faculty and staff she is organizing begins to design and establish programs focused on providing employment experience, your alarm might lessen at Short Term courses whose purpose you only surmise.

As asserted on the poster publicizing a recent all-day BCDC-endorsed symposium Beyond Intellectual Profit, "studying race, gender, class, sexuality or disability make[s] you an attractive job candidate....knowledge about difference [makes you] a better doctor, lawyer, or professional...[thus] your academic career prepare[s] you for purposeful and meaningful work."

We assert that racism, heterosexism and male domination are no "joke." Such serious content in cultural studies courses should make no allowances for "slacking off" during short term.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Eames (Anthropology) and Sue E. Houchins (African American and American Cultural Studies)

Listen to the science

CURTIS RHEINGOLD
CO-MANAGING FORUM EDITOR

It seems fitting that, in this year's last issue of *The Bates Student*, I return to a sentiment that I expressed in the first issue of *The Student* way back in September. When writing about certain politicians' views on climate change, I wrote that "[W]hile other topics in politics may not have a clear 'right' or 'wrong' answer, the nature of science itself allows for purely evidence-based decisions to be made." The scientific method – the centuries-old process by which scientists develop, test, and ultimately confirm or reject hypotheses – is solely based on evidence, eliminating any influence of bias or other confounds through the use of experimental replication and strict statistical thresholds.

Therefore, I find it immensely frustrating when the mainstream media and American public ignore mountains of scientific evidence and continue to perpetuate pseudoscientific myths. In past decade particularly, the 'vaccines cause autism' myth has been particularly damaging. Since 2007, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that there have been over 115,000 illnesses and 1100 deaths in the United States that could have been prevented by vaccinations despite the fact that virtually every major health organization in the world has rejected a link between vaccines and autism. But this myth is old news. Instead, I am going to discuss a different topic that, of late, has become fashionable to baselessly criticize: genetically modified (GM) food, particularly several types of crops.

Genetic modification in general has been a practice for many centuries: when farmers select only the seeds of the biggest or the most pest-resistant tomatoes to replant, they are effectively selecting certain genes to propagate in future tomato generations. Since this practice has been commonplace for so long, many types of modern crops only exist due to this careful selection that maximized their best possible traits. However, nobody protests this type of artificial selection. The type of genetic modification that has caused some controversy involves the insertion of one or a few genes into a plant species. These genes provide the plant with some sort of benefit that it would otherwise not have, such as enhanced vitamin content, resistance to pests or disease, or the

ability to grow with limited nutrients.

But such genetic modification surely can't be safe, right? Certainly crops like this are dangerous and we should stick with "natural" foods, right? In my opinion, Pamela Ronald, a prominent researcher of GM foods, answers these questions best in her article for *Scientific American*. She writes, "There is broad scientific consensus that genetically engineered crops currently on the market are safe to eat. After 14 years of cultivation and a cumulative total of 2 billion acres planted, no adverse health or environmental effects have resulted from commercialization of genetically engineered crops." Ronald cites comprehensive studies by the U.S. National Research Council and the Joint Research Centre (the European Union's major scientific research laboratory) for her statement.

Some of the main health and environmental benefits of GM crops come from their growth in developing countries or in regions of the world that are not especially conducive towards agriculture. Let's consider cotton production as an example. For several decades, spraying synthetic insecticides was the only way to combat cotton-destroying pests. However, researchers developed a form of gm cotton containing a bacterial protein called Bt that kills pests but is harmless to humans and beneficial insects. In 2012, an article by Yu and colleagues in the journal *Nature* reported that Bt cotton growth in China had significantly reduced populations of pests and had increased the population of beneficial insects to the plant. Other researchers found that planting Bt cotton had reduced the number of poisonings in Chinese farming families, since the amount of synthetic chemical pesticides could be decreased due to the effectiveness of Bt.

Elsewhere in the world, researchers reported in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that the switch to Bt cotton in India resulted in a 24% larger yield, a 50% increase in profit, and an 18% improvement in living standards. Closer to home in Hawaii, GM papayas literally saved the fruit's existence. In 1998, a virus called papaya ringspot virus (PRV) threatened to wipe out the state's papaya industry. But with the introduction of PRV-resistant papayas, the fruit was saved and is now grown by 90% of Hawaiian farmers. Notably, there is no other way to

control PRV besides genetic modification.

GM crops are not without some downsides. While Bt cotton reduces the populations of the typical pests that normally attack crops, secondary pests (that are not affected by Bt) can emerge and force farms to spray insecticide to protect their crops. Additionally, interbreeding between GM crops and their wild type counterparts can result in a decrease in natural biodiversity if the genetic modification continues to spread into the wild.

With so many benefits drawn from GM crops, a few possible drawbacks are not reason enough to ban genetic modification. Instead, it should spur more research into ways of improving the modifications. Perhaps another protein similar to Bt could be discovered that combats the secondary pests. In order to prevent the spread of GM crops into the wild, perhaps restrictions could be implemented to enforce a minimum distance between GM crop fields and the surrounding environment.

My point is that instead of finding some minor downside and claiming that GM crops are evil, people should realize the countless benefits that GM crops have brought to the world. With all the possible utilizations of genetic modifications, any downside should spur more research in hopes of making GM crops as safe to the environment as possible. The fact is that GM crops have been grown for be past decade and a half and they are here to stay. With the world's population expected to hit 10 billion later this century (according to UN estimates), the demand for food is bound to increase dramatically. Even in the present, many people in developing countries still have limited access to food sources.

Since the currently grown GM crops have been completely harmless to humans, there is no reason to fear the future of genetic modification in terms of human health. Nevertheless, the same rigorous testing that the current GM crops went through must be maintained into the future. As GM animal products begin to hit the market (GM salmon are currently under FDA review), I urge you to listen to the science. If all of the research suggests that a product is safe, then there is no reason to fear. Unlike fallible humans, the science never lies.

SCOTT OLEHNIK
CO-MANAGING FORUM EDITOR

At about this time every year, people are starting to become fixated on college commencement speeches. There's a particular fascination for what the famous, successful, or powerful have to say to all of these young people on the cusp of being thrown out into the big, bad world.

I, however, see these speeches as a dramatic waste of opportunity. These are students who are already fairly well formed, having had a myriad of experiences in four years in the American higher education system. There is a whole group of people going unguided, their limitless potential and promise going unrecognized. That group of people is comprised of those just beginning their college experience either about to start, or having just finished their freshman year.

In this vein, I would like to offer my own speech of sorts, one designed provide to my younger brethren with a signpost for what I believe to be a full and happy college experience. It would look a little something like this:

Good morning everyone, and welcome to your orientation. No, I'm not talking about your freshman orientation, but rather what is widely regarded as your orientation to the world at large. The college experience, far from being a simple academic affair, is going to test you in more ways than you thought possible. Indeed, it is going to make you the person that you never knew you could be.

This isn't to say that we're going to do all of the work. No, the college experience is only going to help those who know how to help themselves. It may be that you can't do that yet, and that is part of the learning process. There is so much to do in this world, and it would be a mortal sin to let it all pass you by.

Before I spend too much time waxing philosophical and sentimental about the college experience, let me get right down to it.

Do something that you find yourself invested in and that interests you. There's this perception that not all majors are created equal. However, the truth of the matter is that a major is only what you make it. It matters what you want to get out of it, and thus what you are able to apply it to. If you can put your heart into it, it's infinitely better than slogging through a math major simply because you think it might be more "useful".

Similarly, don't fret about the grades, good or bad. Life is about more than just numbers, and that final GPA is not an assessment of value. Knowledge is not something that can be numerically quantified, and that 52% you might get on an organic chemistry exam doesn't necessarily mean that you don't understand organic chemistry. Take the tests, but understand that these tests are checkpoints, and not finish lines.

Try everything that you can. Don't pigeonhole yourself into one single major or field of study. A holistic understanding of the world doesn't just come from a study of physics, but from an in-

corporation of many different fields of study. Take classes in English if they interest you, even if you're a biochemistry major. Spend time studying a language. Learn all that you can. Be curious, and do something that makes you a little nervous. Don't worry what people say about you.

Go abroad, and immerse yourself in another culture, even if it's just "across the pond". So many people fall into the fallacious notion that they'll be able to travel once they finish college, but the simple truth is that you won't be able to replicate the semester that many spend abroad. It's more than just traveling, it's starting fresh in a completely different country. It's adapting when life demands adaptation. It's throwing yourself on the mercy of the world, and showing it that you won't be crushed under the pressure.

Don't be afraid if you have no inkling of what you want to do with your life. Most people come into the college experience knowing exactly what they want to do when they graduate, and for some of them, they're right. The majority, though end up figuring out that being a lawyer or a doctor isn't really what they want to do. Maybe they figure out that they want to work in animal conservation, or write, or work in government. Maybe they figure out that a biology major or an English major isn't representative of what they want from their life. It happens. Just roll with it.

Have fun. It needs no explication, but I'll provide one anyway. Do that naked lap, go bridge jumping, learn to ski, write a controversial column for *The Student*, lead an AESOP, and participate in the puddle jump. Do these things at least once. Don't take yourself too seriously, and just let the worries and cares go every once in a while. Four years of college life will go by at a glacial pace if you can't find the little things to enjoy to fill in the gaps.

Then, there are the little details. Be nice to everyone. Don't label yourself, and don't label others. Read more than just your class textbooks. Learn how to iron, and learn how to cook. Take responsibility for your actions. Do the difficult things in life, because they are the things most worth doing. Discover yourself, because if there is one thing that everyone can get from a Bates College experience, it is a better understanding of what we are individually. What makes us tick, and what makes our lives whole, this is what education is about.

That's what I wanted to say. This list is by no means exhaustive, but my point is that education is more than just learning what a Grignard reagent is, the meaning behind *Northanger Abbey*, how DNA replicates, or how gravitational potential energy works. Education is a combination of all of that, plus the experiences that we can't plan for. The educational experiences that happen when we least expect them, and when we least want them are equally important.

As Mark Twain purportedly said, "Never let formal education get in the way of your learning." Welcome to Bates College.

Diversity of what?

MATT FURLOW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

President Spencer emailed the student body announcing a series of "open conversations" on diversity, specifically on the role of the Office of Intercultural Education (OIE), and invited the entire Bates community to participate in the conversation. So here's my take: the way diversity is conceptualized and acted on at Bates discriminates against numerous legitimate forms of diversity.

You may ask, "What do you mean?" Bates has and actively encourages diversity through the OIE, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and through events like this open conversation". However, Bates has lost the true meaning of diversity, and has focused on it superficially, using it as a means to distinguish itself from other small liberal arts colleges rather than pursuing diversity for its own sake. More concretely, Bates primarily looks at diversity in categorical terms through the lenses of race and gender, and consequently ignores others forms of diversity that contributes to the vitality of the Bates community that we all know well.

Two individuals that I know very well demonstrate the remarkable diversity in the Bates community. The first is a musician, a fantastic guitarist and vocalist. He works in the Bates AV center creating promotional videos for Bates and is an extremely talented alpine skier.

The second is a pre-med politics major (I don't get it either), heavily involved with the Outing Club and EMS, as well as a decent brewer. Also, he is learning Mandarin, and is currently studying abroad in China.

Yet these two individuals do not fit the conventional definition of diversity because both are white, heterosexual males from the East Coast. While Bates may recognize them for their achievements in other ways, their activities aren't considered as a contribution to the diversity of the college.

As evidence to support the college's obvious oversight of these other forms of diversity, one only needs to look at the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's web page on the Bates website.

First, under the "Diversity in Campus Life" section, there is a page linked to the OIE, whose mission is "providing all of our students from underrepresented backgrounds a 'space to be apart'" and to provide "opportunities for the entire Bates community to experience 'time to be together'". What does underrepresented mean, and shouldn't a college office encouraging diversity promote all forms, not those deemed underrepresented? The term, "intercultural" implies some groups fit their definition while others do not. In addition to the OIE, there is a page listing a variety of faith-related organizations on campus, despite the fact that some

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DIVERSITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of the organizations listed don't even exist anymore. Why isn't there is page celebrating the diverse range of non-academic musical talent on campus, and the like?

To be fair, there is a page supposedly for all student activities, but only multicultural organizations are listed on the page. What about the other 90 or so student organizations on campus? I guess their activities do not represent the "diversity" of Bates, despite the fact that we have a wide range of politically activist organizations from the Bates Republicans to the Slow Food Club.

To be clear, this isn't an assault on these services or organizations, it just suggests that numerous other forms of diversity seem to be excluded from what the college considers diverse.

Further evidence of this exclusion is exemplified in the college's policies. Most notably, the affirmative action policy only includes race and gender as identities entitled to special treatment. Why just those forms, because I wonder how many libertarian-leaning faculty are on campus? Probably very few to none. I guess intellectual diversity matters less at Bates than I thought. In sum, the administration doesn't actually promote diversity, instead just the types of diversity that it deems representative of diversity.

Now what can be taken from this critique to transform it into constructive criticism?

First, the Bates community must make an ongoing effort to reframe diversity to include the various forms diversity takes. This includes an active public relations effort that represents the numerous activities on campus indicative of the college's diversity. For example, instead of just listing the multicultural organizations on the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's web page, list the major accomplishments of all student organizations.

Another important step in reframing diversity is to redraft the mission statement of the OIE and Office of Diversity and Inclusion to expand the definition beyond identity and concentrate activities and intellectual viewpoints, both excluded from the current definition.

Second, promoting diversity around campus requires financial investments. Currently, Bates' budget for student activities is woefully underfunded at \$210 per student, while Bowdoin receives approximately \$442 and Hamilton at \$440 per student. Also, the OIE and Office of Diversity and Inclusion should receive more discretionary funding to help students and student organizations in promoting their diverse activities around campus.

Bates needs to change the way we think about diversity on campus and include that redefinition in our rhetoric, activities and budgetary priorities to truly create a campus that embraces our multifaceted differences that makes Bates, Bates.

Going the distance

ERIN HARMON
STAFF WRITER

It's funny how all kinds of things separate us: jobs, family, and school. Some of us might never face the challenge of distance, but many of us find ourselves fighting distance regularly.

When we return home for the summer or to a new city for an internship, we face distance. When all of the seniors graduate in four weeks, we will face distance. And when your boyfriend or girlfriend moves or maybe your family relocates while you're still in school, you face distance.

I always wonder how far is too far. Can two hours really justify pulling two people apart? 120 minutes. That's only 40 minutes longer than a typical class at Bates. Surely two people that love each other can handle that right?

So what is it that allows distance to break us apart? And better yet, what about it can pull us closer together?

It's not that not being able to talk makes it difficult, but there are obstacles with all types of communication. Heck, sometimes we even revert back to writing letters just to get a sense of the old fashioned way we used to approach distance.

When we graduate from college or simply leave for the summer, we'll probably only talk to a few people we used to see on a regular basis. It's hard to tell and predict just which people that select few might consist of.

How do some people successfully overcome distance and make it work for each other separately and together?

Sometimes one person in the equation might complain about feeling suffocated, not getting enough attention, not caring enough, maybe even caring too much. Distance seems to come with a whole assortment of complaints, worries, and frustrations.

What would have happened if distance didn't knock on our front door

every summer, for the whole semester, or for what feels like an eternity of two years?

When you search "long distance" on Google News, the first few articles that pop up involve basketball, long-distance trains, the movie 'Long Distance' and vibrating underwear controlled by smart phones that could keep long-distance couples satisfied (I promise I am not making this one up).

Could vibrating underwear controlled by smart phones really keep us from breaking up, having a falling out, or losing touch?

Maybe vibrating underwear controlled by smart phones isn't the solution I had in mind, but that's not to say that we might not look outside of the box for a variety of solutions to keep us together and make sure things stay the same as everything else becomes so different.

My best friend's little sister (from Maryland) went to school in California, I moved to Maryland from Maine for Bates, lived in three different cities for the last three summers and my best friend goes to school in North Carolina.

Sure, sometimes we have wanted to rip our hair out trying to stay in touch. We play phone tag for a week, can't get a bar of service in the library, or become so sick of texting that we stop communicating all together. But, we have breaks, we take time to visit one another at school, and we Skype when we can.

During my drive back to Bates from Maryland after break, my friend started making claims about what makes romantic long distance relationships so much more different than long distance friendships.

First she came up with the idea of the sexual aspect and the idea of "needing" each other in that sense.

I thought that seemed like a genuine claim. A big part of our romantic relationships depends on the obvious: sex. Without it, do our relationships cease

to function? What is it about sex that keeps us together?

On the bus to Andover from Boston, a woman recognized my Bates sweatshirt and mentioned that she had two boys who attended Bowdoin and had friends that had children who attended Bates.

Right away, she brought up her son's wedding. She told me that, "He had ten friends! All those 10 boys with him. From those schools, you have friends forever. Forever."

I felt a sense of ease. She had pointed out the obvious that I had been beating around for the past four years. Not only did the people make Bates special, but the fact that we would maintain our relationships with these people forever.

Maybe 10 boys will not attend my wedding, but I know that 7 girls certainly will.

When I showed my mom this article, she said that she wished her family lived right down the road.

One of my best friends from Bates told me that what makes the weekends so hard for long-distance romantic relationships is that you are suddenly finding yourself having to choose between friends and your special significant other.

I envy those that find the perfect balance, and maybe for some, you have to live within reasonable distance of your friends and your significant other to make yourself and those you love happy.

I will never quite understand distance. After flying home from California, and then driving back across the U.S. up to Maine after break, passing through Boston and finally reaching Lewiston, I started questioning state lines. Exit after exit, I kept wishing to know and just understand why these state lines and boundaries do such a good job at getting in the way.

Giving speech to the silent: A plea for urgent climate action

BEN BERGER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the struggle to reverse catastrophic global climate change it is the most vulnerable people who often don't have a voice in the fight. I've been in Sri Lanka studying abroad for 3 months and this is my attempt to speak for them. While not even intending to analyze the shock that a warming world would have on this beautiful, crowded island, the future and present effects are so apparently disastrous that I can't go anywhere without thinking of how much trouble this island, the people and environment, face. My study abroad experience here was meant as my break from climate activism but my mistake, there is never a break to be had in this business.

A little background first. Sri Lanka is the small, tear-dropped shaped island south of India. It is considered a 'biodiversity hotspot' as it boasts a considerable amount of tropical flora and fauna, most of which is endemic to the island. With 20 million people, the island is very crowded and the majority of people are farmers. The country is majority Buddhist with minority Tamil Hindu and Muslim populations. A strong environmental ethic emanates with all three of these religions but sadly much of the environment was destroyed or degraded thanks to the 400 years of colonial rule and continued impacts of globalization. Fortunately some natural beauty has been preserved in parks and conservation areas.

Tropical ecosystems by their very nature are vulnerable to collapse from a changing climate as species found within are not generalists but instead depend on a very specific habitat to live. The climatic factors of that habitat include temperature and precipitation both of which are rapidly changing relative to the rate of adaptation. When ecosystems fail, people suffer because of the vast array of services provided such as water and air filtration, flood protection, wild crop relatives, climate regulation and what are most often overlooked, spiritual and cultural connections. Scientists believe tropical ecosystems could exhibit threshold type behavior in response to climate alteration which means a disastrous tipping point could be reached with additional warming. Considering globally we are in the midst of the human caused sixth

mass extinction and the island is heavily deforested, Sri Lanka could be teetering on the edge of this tipping point and the rainforests may soon be history. Is that something we really want to risk?

Irregular, inconsistent rainfall patterns have directly impacted the millions of farmers in Sri Lanka; many of whom are poor villagers who live from harvest-to-harvest. The northern two-thirds of the country are in the dry-zone and only receive rain during the two month northeast monsoon. The remainder of the year, they are dependent on the hydraulic works of their ancient ancestors whom developed an impressive system of canals and reservoirs that are filled from the rivers which radiate from the wet southwest area. Planting and harvesting regiments are based off the consistency of the surging rivers, but that consistency is no more. Heavy rains will fall before or after the monsoon season and less-so during. For a rural, dry-zone farmer who has no access to weather reports from the South there is no way to adjust- multiply that by millions and you have the potential for some serious food shortages and health crises. Not to mention the most direct impact of all, I had one conversation with a farmer who said the increase in temperature over the last 20 years means he physically can't work during the hottest days and his productivity has taken a hit.

Being a tropical island, Sri Lanka is endowed with unbeatable natural beaches but is also susceptible to the dangers of rising sea levels and increasingly powerful cyclones. I don't think I need to say much more than this except that much of the population density and tourist developments are found nuzzled against the coastline. An increase in the frequency and strength of cyclones in a country lacking the roads to support a mass evacuation and a reliable warning system means more frequent and increasingly deadly disasters.

What all this amounts to is a simple fact: The burning of fossil fuels has unquestionably warmed the entire planet and this has brought about and will continue to bring about a great deal of suffering to the beautiful island of Sri Lanka and it's incredibly genuine and kind inhabitants. Psychologists say that the reason more people aren't concerned with climate change is because the negative impacts take place over too long of a period of time for us to pick up on. Ecosystems slowly transform and tempera-

tures rise just a bit each year. It is helpful then to try and imagine life in 2053, 40 years from now, without the curbing of emissions. Maybe Sri Lanka will have had two more terrible cyclones, a completely different and unpredictable monsoon season, more frequent floods due to the disappearing rainforest, and the extinctions of five to ten more species than what simply habitat loss could bring about. I think those estimates are generous considering the scientific uncertainty around tipping points and the rate of economic development and fossil fuel emissions increasing all over the world. Life may simply not even be possible according to many respected climate scientists.

One reason Sri Lankan people don't have a voice in the fight against global warming is their lack of awareness. Another one is that they are out of sight and out of mind of the fossil fuel executives. We in the United States are in a commanding position because we have the ability to reverse climate change and have a population-wide level of awareness of the issue. We literally can't wait any longer to put a price on carbon and begin a shift to a fossil free world. Bates, along with hundreds of other universities, towns, cities, and religious groups, all around the United States are in the midst of a united campaign to divest from fossil fuels, because we say it is immoral to profit off this destruction, sending a strong message to our elected leaders that change is urgently required.

I call on Bates College, our trustees, President, administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni to be leaders in this struggle and to speak for the billions of people in the world without a voice in this fight. A responsible and managed divestment over five years is achievable without harming our school's precious endowment and financial aid. To say that we can't make a difference is irresponsible; we are truly at the forefront of this movement and one school's divestment could easily trigger the rest. On behalf of Sri Lanka and all other silenced climate victims, leaders of Bates: put our mission into action and proudly show the world what we stand for.

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HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in a multitude of possible future careers like occupational health, nutrition, environmental health awareness, and hospital administration, just to name a few. PHI strives to provide real-world experience for its volunteers, as all of its programs thus far have been primarily student run.

This fall, Bates students got involved with the Free Clinic at the Trinity Jubilee Center. They assisted with its creation, ran programs there to address specific needs, and gave out a total of 66 flu shots, some of which students administered themselves under the instruction of Dr. Haines.

Bates volunteers also designed and implemented the Zero Sugary Drinks Program at the Somali Bantu Youth Center. In addition students volunteered at the Free Clinic, educating youth and adults about the negatives of sugary drinks and discussing alternative beverage choices. PHI plans to continue this program, with Tara Notarianni '14 as its coordinator. This program provides a valuable learning experience for not only Lewiston-Auburn residents but also for students. As Cohen and Arnsow put it in the group's informational flier from their first meeting on April 25, 2013, this program enables students to "participate in a healthcare setting

with a language barrier".

This short term, students interested in joining PHI can look forward to exciting new projects including the Smoking Cessation Program which Patel describes as "a path for people who want to quit tobacco but don't know how to". PHI is partnering with Healthy Androscoggin and the Dempsey Center for this project. PHI hopes this project will provide continued care and support for patients while simultaneously giving Bates volunteers experience in designing creative curriculums.

Additionally, PHI members will take part in the new Dental Health Program at the Dempsey Center. This program was created to not only assist with basic teeth cleaning and oral health awareness education but also to help conduct oral cancer screenings. PHI's involvement in this program is organized by Zachary Kofos '13, the group's Community Coordinator.

Only a month into its official status as a club on campus, PHI has already embarked on a plethora of projects. As its membership grows, the group hopes to brainstorm new volunteer opportunities as well as enhance and expand those they have already begun. Cohen and Arnsow encourage interested students to get involved this short term. They encourage students to add their voice to PHI's discussions, and their time and energy to volunteering in the Lewiston-Auburn community.



ZUHAYR REAZ '16/THE BATES STUDENT



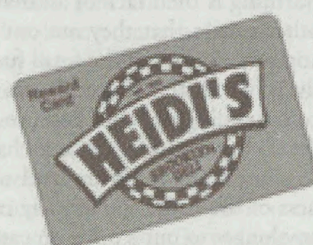
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DEBATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But while Bates did not advance to the finals, Bates was not unrepresented in the last round of British Parliamentary Nationals. Loyola Marymount University graduate student and Bates alum, Colin Etnire, represented LMU in the final round and took home the second speaker award for the tournament. Summers was the seventh best speaker.

Fast-forward to American Parliamentary nationals held in late April at the University of Maryland at College Park, and the results were less favorable for Bates. American Parliamentary debate features two teams of two people facing off against each other. Unlike British Parliamentary, where neither team knows the resolution, the American style requires teams to write "cases" in advance. One side will then "propose" a motion, and the other side must oppose it on the spot.

In all, it seems Bates' run at this national tournament was cut short prematurely by a questionable judging call. In the "bubble round"—a round in which a win will allow a team to "break" into the "out rounds"—Summers and Blackburn suffered from an "unfortunate decision" from a former debater turned judge. As Summers explained, "breaking" requires a certain number of wins and "speaker points," or points awarded for individual performances. Blackburn and Summers were poised in this round to break as long as they beat their Brown University opponents and received speaker scores of 26 points or above. Speaker points have a de facto range between 23 and about 28. For varsity debaters in a national tournament, a score of 26 would be considered average.

Summers recalled that he and his



Ty Daly, Taylor Blackburn, Matt Summers, Cat Djang, Ben Smith, Chris Bolger, Taylor Stone, Sasha Grodsky, Shannon Griffin and Logan Pettinato at Stanford University. COURTESY PHOTO/BROOKS QUIMBY DEBATE COUNCIL

partner "mopped the floor" with Brown and won the round. But when it came down to speaker scores, the story was different. To their surprise, the team received speaker scores of just 24—the average score for novice debaters. All scores are subjective, Summers explained, and a score of 24 might have reflected the average speaker score when the judge—a former debater—was himself debating five years ago. But in any case, the competition for Blackburn and Summers ended at that moment with

a puzzling and disappointing speaker score. The duo—ranked eleventh nationally—finished the tournament 28th out of 77 teams.

Still, despite a somewhat disappointing finish at the American Parliamentary Nationals, Summers said that it was nonetheless a "terrific year for Bates, and an overall good finish". Moreover, he noted that the BQDC will "sorely miss [its] senior class next year" as the team prepares for another run at the national title.

WELCOME TO SHORT TERM.



EZRA WOLFINGER '14/THE BATES STUDENT

Plant Terrariums bring summer life into student dorms

MICHELLE PHAM
MANAGING ARTS & LEISURE EDITOR

When you can't grow outdoors, plant a garden on your windowsill and tabletop.

This past summer when I was living in Vancouver, Canada, I passed many yuppie-oriented lifestyle and decor boutiques on my way home from work. There was one particular store that would greet me when I turned the corner. Its naturalistic storefront had always piqued my attention. A brown barrel filled with peculiar plant species beckoned at the base of the stairs and I had always made a mental note to myself to go in one day. In the middle of the summer haze, I finally climbed up the winding set of rustic stairs that led to a hidden nursery situated on the outskirts of Downtown.

Once inside, I was greeted by volumes of glass containers and the tropical, miniature worlds that they nurtured. What I saw before me were plant terrariums, mini indoor gardens housed within creative containers ranging from high-end designer pieces to simple fishbowls. It is even possible to create a micro-version of a terrarium using light bulbs. After speaking with the store associate who informed me that the xerographica, a very rare and beautiful silver, broad-leafed airplant, was selling at \$22.00, I deduced that air terrariums would be an investment for any college student budget. Nevertheless, these small microcosms of life were fascinating, compact, and the perfect accessory for any college dorm. These miniature gardens are perfect for anyone who wants to decorate with houseplants but doesn't have the space or the time for maintenance, which is quintessentially the predicament that many college students face. "Terrariums are beautiful. If plants are what you're looking for, these are perfect for a dorm room," says sophomore Roky Samake.

As the leaves crunching under our feet turn a crispy brown and the skies fall into a somber grey coma, everyone needs a little green in their life. Plant terrariums offer the perfect solution for this. One can choose a desert theme, filling their terrarium with cacti species, or if succulent plants are favored, one can create a more tropical, lush theme. Terrariums allow for many tastes and looks depending on the season. In addition, if you do not have time to water plants

but want to retain the décor element, airplants, also known as epiphytes, are the ideal solution. These plants need no soil because water and nutrients are absorbed through their leaves. Occasional light misting will allow the plant to flourish, but since these plants need no soil base, they can be placed anywhere.

Here are some recommendations we have if you want to create your own plant terrarium.

Finding a Container

Plant terrariums do not need to be extraordinarily sophisticated. Visit Goodwill to find an interesting bottle or if you find yourself at the Bates New York Finance Roadshow, stop by in Brooklyn to visit the flea markets where you can stumble upon a variety of eclectic containers. Glass milk bottles are also perfect for these DIY projects. If you have an empty fishbowl that once housed your goldfish, use it. Closed containers with smaller openings make for a more humid, jungle-like atmosphere. Gardeners.com recommends a more open container for cactus and succulent plants.

Terrarium Plant Varieties

When creating a terrarium, select plants that all require the same care. For example, if your room receives plenty of sunlight, choose all-drought or tropical varieties. Never mix plants with different needs. Popular choices include croton, pothos, dracaena, small ferns, lucky bamboo, club moss, creeping fig and prayer plant.

Air Plant Varieties

Since air plants are so self-sufficient, they complement any lifestyle and environment. Some recommendations include the streptophylla, a velvety plant with silver ribbons that curl and swirl. The caput-medusa is also an affordable option. Its swirling velvety arms make for unusually graceful plants. In addition, it produces many purple flowers throughout the year. The stricta is also a popular choice. The stricta has stiff, silvery leaves with beautiful pink buds with purple blooms that add a pop of color in the dead of the winter.

Plant terrariums are a brilliant option that allows for life to blossom as temperatures sink below 0 degrees Celsius. Enjoy them!



MICHELLE PHAM '15/THE BATES STUDENT

DORM LIVING

SOCIAL MEDIA

Hegemony cricket: The interdisciplinary power of Women and Gender Studies

ALI DESJARDIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Feminism. The word itself has become stigmatized and marked with stereotypes about who "feminists" really are. The problem is that there is not one type of feminist. To claim that all feminists are the same would be like saying that all people are the same, or all trees are the same, or all diseases are the same, despite the fact that most of us know this to be untrue. No two people are exactly the same, so why would all feminists have to be?

About two weeks ago, I started my "Hegemony Cricket" Tumblr account as part of my independent project for Short Term. The name "Hegemony Cricket" plays off of the famous character, Jiminy Cricket. Hegemony is dominance or influence that is dictated by power authorities, but is also something that very few question the validity of. I thought, based on what "feminism" has come to mean, that I should avoid using the word in my title, so as to gain a broader audience for my project. I also thought that something that was a play on words may intrigue people enough to read about something that they may not have had otherwise if it said gender, patriarchy, or feminist in the title.

Prior to beginning this project, I had viewed Tumblr and Twitter purely as trivial social media sites. I was wrong. These sites have posts, pictures, and videos from feminists, scientists, historians, and artists who share the common goal of using mass social media to discuss the subject about which they are most passionate. I was happy to have been wrong, mainly because my Short Term independent study was born out of my misconceptions.

The goal of my Short Term project is to demonstrate, through social media, that feminism is overarching, interdisciplinary, and above all not something that people have to be afraid to participate in. It spans more than just Women and Gender Studies courses and falls into all aspects of everyday life. Whether in a class in Environmental Studies, Chemistry, or History, feminist prin-

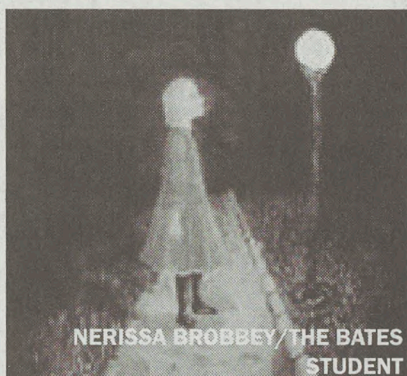
See FEMINISM, PAGE 6

Ghosts: Paranormal or hallucinations?

NERISSA BROBBEY
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

I was inspired to write an article on ghosts, ghouls and phantoms after remembering a visit to Mary King's Close, Edinburgh, Scotland. I had the privilege of going to Scotland last Short Term to dig in the Shetland Islands. As part of the historical build-up to the archeological work, we spent a week in Edinburgh visiting monuments, castles and museums. Mary King's Close was the most unique tour because after the glitz and glamour of palaces we were faced with the harsh reality of what history was genuinely like for the not-so-fortunate in society. After plague ravaged Edinburgh, the lower levels of the city were closed off to prevent any more epidemics, to isolate the infected and let them die and to keep the filth at bay. Mary King's Close was one of the streets that is now subterranean. In one of the small apartments we visited lies a pile of toys that have been accumulated by visitors over time to end the eternal search of the spirit of a little girl for her doll who died there of the plague. Is there any truth behind these reports? How much is real and how much is hallucination?

While we were there, we had no personal encounters with anything unnatural, but the Close is described by many familiar with it as haunted. The stories of the many restless souls whose horrid lives still shock them well into death become the source of much fascination and debate. All over the world there are similar reports of people appearing and disappearing, mysterious noises, startling photographs and inexplicable re-enactments. At the White House, many residents and visitors



describe Abraham Lincoln wondering the corridors. In France, Marie Antoinette is said to still linger long after being guillotined. Similarly in England, Anne Boleyn's headless body still roams after many eyewitness accounts. These events not only encourage the publicity of various monuments but they call for so many spin-off television shows like Most Haunted, Ghost Hunters and even some episodes of Scooby-Doo. Clearly, some hauntings are fabrications designed to rake in cash from tourists and hopeful TV viewers. But what about the reports by people who stand to profit nothing from their claims?

The most obvious explanation will be innocent human perception. Some types of hallucinations (i.e. induced by inhaling any gases present) and optical illusions can trick even the most rational of people. Scientific analyses have studied how natural magnetic fields in certain areas warp human perception. Studies into infrasound (low-frequency sound) have proven to stimulate experiences related to hauntings in test subjects. Vic Tandy, a lecturer at Coventry University, has written extensively about how the resonating eyeball can trick the brain into seeing unnatural movements at the corner of one's eye. He concluded that sound at a frequency

of 19Hz can induce feelings of fright in humans. He was the first to link his discovery with ghost sightings. Poor sleep patterns have also proven to give some people the perception of being haunted. Pareidolia is a phenomenon where the human brain has a tendency to make unknown or inanimate objects familiar. This is how we look at clouds and see unlikely shapes or look at the face of the clock and see a man with a mustache. Any sudden movement or unusual sound is automatically associated with something human and hence the perception of a haunting.

But moving beyond the scientific skepticism is there something else? As likely as the above explanations are, are there some encounters that are not hoaxes and not caused by misperception? The Law of Conservation of Energy says that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed. We, as living beings, who are bodies of energy, what does that say about us? Of course there is plenty debate of the extent to which this theory applies to us. This theory is clearly true for the decay of our bodies and how in our death we provide life to some members of our eco-system. But is this true at a more spiritual level? Assuming the soul is something that exists? For thousands of years, religions all over the world have advocated for some type of life after death. Irrespective of any personal beliefs, the consistency should be something to be taken into consideration.

So are ghosts real? Maybe. Before the Law of Conservation there was the Bhagavad Gita of Hindu wisdom that romantically stated "The soul is never born and it never dies. It is unborn, eternal, ever-existing and primeval. It is not slain when the body is slain."

Bob Dylan, still going, plays Lewiston

TEDDY RUBE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When a well-known musician performs in Lewiston, it's bound to cause a stir. This is especially true when that musician is Bob Dylan, the 72 year-old rock-and-roll pioneer, who performed in Lewiston's Androscoggin Bank Coliseum on April 10th. Dylan's performance baffled many with his shoddy vocal performance, but ultimately satisfied concertgoers with a combination of new and old hits, bluesy performance style, and sheer power of reputation.

The first thing concertgoers noticed was Dylan's voice. After nearly 50 years of performing, Dylan's once-clear voice has degraded into a gravelly rasp. As a result, many of his songs were nearly unintelligible. Although there were some moments where his voice was high and clear, often Dylan sounded like a bullfrog attempting to sing in key. Dylan's poetic lyrics—the source of his musical brilliance—were extremely tough for listeners to grasp.

Concertgoer Evan Molinari '16, worked hard to take the optimistic route on Dylan's vocals: "I went into the concert not expecting to understand a word, but I understood it only slightly more than I expected."

Despite his lackluster vocal performance, Dylan was still able to put on a show that was thoroughly enjoyable. Backed by a competent set of musicians, Dylan trundled through a set balanced with new material and old fan favorites.

Dylan released his 35th studio album, *Tempest*, in the fall, and some of that album's more inspired material featured prominently in Dylan's set. "Pay in Blood," played early on in the set, featured some of Dylan's most gleefully malicious lyrics in years. The chorus, "I pay in blood, but not my own" and other lyrics exhibited a fun nastiness and irony that harkened back to earlier hits like "Positively 4th Street" from the 1960's.

Another new song, "Early Roman Kings," was repetitive but sprightly, with a swinging instrumental refrain that was well juxtaposed for ironic effect with the song's dark lyrics. "Scarlet Town," another new number, had dark, allusive lyrics and shared features with Dylan's famous "Desolation Row," but was played a little slow and was unremarkable instrumentally. "Soon After Midnight," another *Tempest* composition, also appeared early in the set.

Along with his new songs, Dylan played a veritable host of fan favorites, which, although sometimes tough to

understand, were extremely satisfying. The best song of the night was by far "Tangled Up In Blue," a forlorn 1974 ballad, altered just enough to accommodate Dylan's weaker vocals and slower style.

Matt Bullard, '16, described the song as a "high point" and that despite a "new delivery," Dylan was "still hitting the notes soundly."

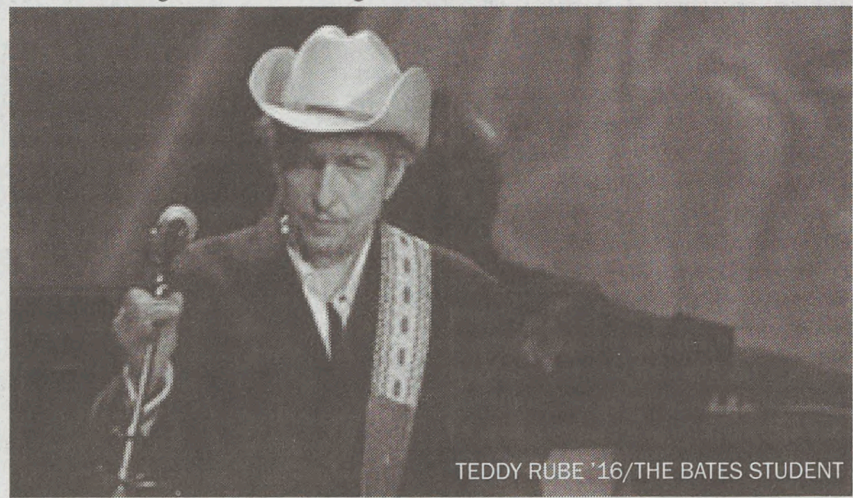
Surprisingly, Dylan also performed his 1966 hit "Visions of Johanna," which, with its long, surreal lines and strong intensity, might have seemed out of Dylan's performance capacity. However, his band arranged it into a slower, soulful rendition, and his lyrics were intelligible enough to make it extremely entertaining.

For his closing tune before the inevitable encore, Dylan performed "All Along the Watchtower," his traditional closer, which was performed as rocking as Dylan and his band could muster. His encore was "Ballad of a Thin Man," augmented by blistering harmonica solos, to the crowd's delight.

Staffing Dylan's band was a group of veteran rock and blues performers that provided him with an authentic and organic blues sound. The band's various instruments included acoustic guitar, electric guitar, electric bass, stand-up string bass, pedal steel guitar, mandolin, piano, and drums. In a departure from earlier tours, acoustic instruments were used quite frequently. "I really enjoyed the instrumental arrangements, especially the use of the upright bass," Carly Peruccio '16 said. "It really made a difference in the sound."

Although known as rock-and-roll star, Dylan instead delivered bluesy, swinging arrangements of his songs, in a relaxed style that would have seemed more at home in a blues bar than a rock show. However, the arrangements accommodated Dylan's voice well and seemed to help, not hurt his performance. Kelsey Schober '16, who attended the concert, said that despite the musical differences and weak vocals, she thought Dylan still retained his "Dylan-esque feel" and that the show "had the atmosphere of when you put on a CD from his younger days."

Overall, the general consensus seemed to be that despite the flaws in Dylan's musical performance, the chance to see the aging musician perform was not one to pass up. Matt Bullard summed the feeling up, saying "I knew I would have to see him when they announced the concert" and described seeing Dylan as a "bucket list" item.



FEMINISM

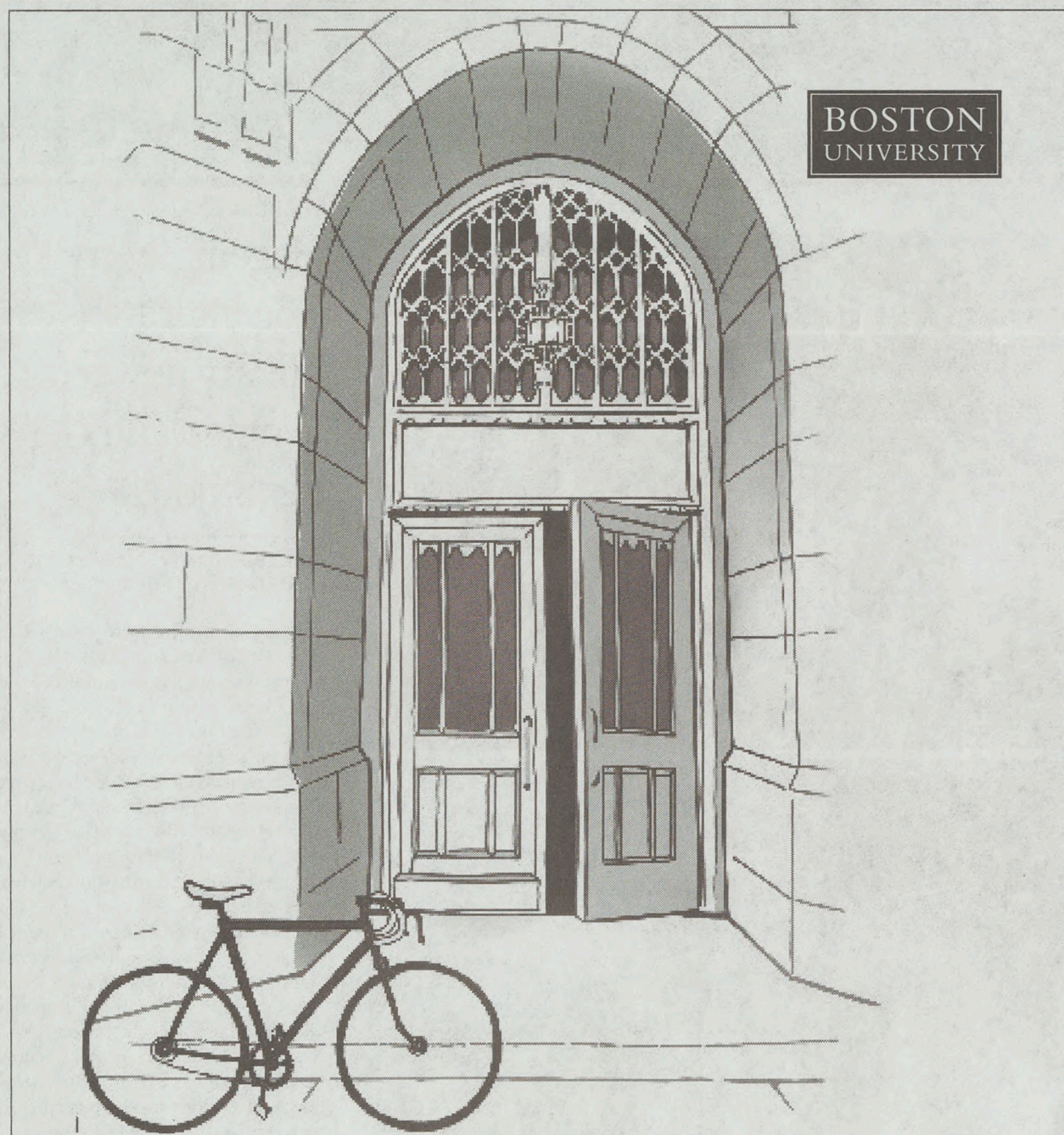
Continued from PAGE 5

ciples and perspectives can be applied, and the diverse range of topics that I cover in my Tumblr aims to prove that feminist issues are in fact humanist issues. Thus far, I have covered such topics as feminist branding, social media, nuclear radiation, bullying, and sexual violence. These topics are not owned by feminists, nor should they be. Everyone has a stake in ensuring that bullying, for example, is ended. Feminists who are allies in this fight are looking to achieve justice for an under or misrepresented group. The battle for justice is one of the core tenets of feminism, and one that my independent study hopes to demonstrate.

As a white, upper middle class heterosexual woman at one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges, I realize that I have had certain opportunities granted to me based partially on my identity. As a Women and Gender Studies major, and as a feminist, I want to help other people who may not have had the same access to the opportunities I have. I want to use my position to better the lives of those who have been continually denied the tools to stand up for themselves and the justice they deserve. I hope that after my time at Bates I will have to opportunity to take the skills I have learned and apply them to my career, family, and everyday life. I have cherished Bates

as a place that has taught me to truly love learning. It is sad, though, that my fellow WGS majors often feel a certain way when talking about our major. We should not have to double major or feel defensive about what we are studying, but we sometimes do. We are often afraid to tell our parents or friends that we are majoring in a field that may not have a predefined career "attached" to it.

The worst, and most common question, is "Women and Gender Studies? What the hell are you going to do with that?" To be honest, I am not sure yet. I would put money on the fact, though, that a good percentage of Bates students do not yet have a clear plan as to exactly what they will be doing after they graduate either. I do know, however, that in the WGS classes I have taken thus far, I have met some of the most brilliant, hard-working, dedicated people with whom I could have ever hoped to collaborate. Perhaps that is a testament to Bates, but I think it speaks more to the type of environment that WGS classes foster. An environment that realizes that it is ok to be wrong, and an environment that forces students to ask "why?" instead of simply settling for easy answers. The key to these classes, and to life after Bates, is that we have learned how to think critically, ask questions, and work hard. I would encourage people to step outside of their comfort zones, and take a class that has "gender" in the title. They may be as surprised as I was.



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Men's and Women's Rowing

Rowing continues strong spring season



DOUG VOSS/COURTESY PHOTO

ALEX DAUGHERTY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The men's and women's rowing teams have continued their quest to prove their dominance among Division III opponents. On Sunday, the men's team won all four races against Middlebury and University of Vermont while the women captured three of four races against the same schools.

The spring season commenced for both teams on March 30th. The men took on MIT and Boston College while the women competed against Simmons. The women won every race against Simmons, with the first varsity eight from Bates beating Simmons by 26.4 seconds and similarly dominating performances from the second, third, and novice boats.

"The women have been consistent and solid with their results all season," senior Andre Gobbo said.

The men had tough competition throughout the day, with the first varsity eight defeating Boston College by 18 seconds and finishing only 2.6 seconds behind MIT.

The women's team entered the spring season tied for third in the country with Trinity. Bates has finished as the runner up in four consecutive years at the NCAA championships.

Both teams then journeyed to San Diego to compete in the San Diego Crew Classic as the only Division III schools in the field.

That didn't stop the women's varsity eight boat from making the grand final, where they finished fifth ahead of St. Mary's in 6:59.91. The women's varsity eight consists of junior coxswain Gabby Bilotta, juniors Aisling Ryan, Alex Hill, Heather Monty, and Hope King, along with sophomores Eliza Barkan, Eliza

beth Sangree, Mallory Ward, and Jenna Armstrong.

The men's varsity eight beat Santa Clara for fifth place in the Men's Collegiate Varsity Petite Race in 6:19.41. Bates' men's varsity eight team is comprised of junior coxswain Jacob Sandoz, seniors Peter Haley, Gobbo, Matthew Johns, and Charlie Carey, junior Hank Schless, sophomore Matthew Silverman, and first-years Nicholas Muccio and Welles Mathison.

"There is a huge class of freshman that came in and are doing great this year, both the men and the women," said Gobbo. "We have freshman in the first boat and it's impressive that a program of our size can have so many good men and women join our team as walk-ons and contribute immediately."

Bates then traveled back to its friendly east coast confines for a dual meet with Tufts, Wesleyan, University of New Hampshire, and Wellesley. The women finished the day with a perfect 6-0 record against Tufts and Wellesley while the men went 4-3 against Wesleyan and UNH.

The women's top three varsity teams went undefeated against Tufts and all three advanced to meet Wellesley in the finals. All three boats were victorious, with the first boat facing the closest race. Bates won by five seconds in a time of 6:57.96.

The men faced UNH in the first round, and the first and second varsity boats advanced to the finals against Wesleyan. Wesleyan won both of the final races against the top varsity eight boats, but Bates did manage to win the varsity four races against Wesleyan by healthy margins.

"We [the men] have not been quite as consistent early in the season, as we are still fitting out lineups," Gobbo said.

"However, we are coming together recently and getting some wins under our belt."

The men's and women's top boats then downed WPI, Rhode Island and Wellesley before hosting the President's Cup Regatta on the Androscoggin River.

"Rowing at home gives us a bit of an advantage, because we don't have to travel and once we get there we don't have to set up our boats," Gobbo said. "The races at home are later on in the season and we have more of a chance to gel as a team, which explains our success at home."

The men defeated rival Bowdoin and Colby in the first varsity eight race while the women's first, second, and third boats outpaced the top boats from Bowdoin and Colby. Bates captured the President's Cup with ease.

Both teams then dominated another recent regatta on the Androscoggin, with Bates capturing all four men's races and three of the four women's races.

The women are now ranked fourth in Division III while the men are one of the top teams in New England.

"A lofty goal is to win New England's but we're looking to do well and get a top three finish," Gobbo said. "We don't want to go into the race with an attitude that we're going to beat everyone, we're just looking to do well and have a good showing."

Bates will now look forward to the most important meets of the season, starting with the New England Championships this weekend. The Bobcats will then compete at the ECAC Championships and then finish the season at the NCAA Championships.

"Overall, the season has been a success for the men and women," noted Gobbo.

Women's Softball

Gattuso throws first perfect game in Bates history as softball beats Fisher

DOUG STEINBERG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Bates senior pitcher Caroline Gattuso pitched the first perfect game in Bates history last Wednesday as the Bobcats defeated Fisher College in game one a doubleheader. Gattuso faced the minimum of 15 batters, striking out eight batters in what was obviously the most impressive statistical game of her career. The game ended in the fifth inning because of the eight-run rule, as Bates would win 8-0. "Catcher Anna-Marie Martino called a great game, and the defense made the plays they needed to," explained Gattuso, "Can't have a perfect game without everyone else doing their jobs too."

Also in game one, senior infielder Mary Lewis broke the single-season stolen base record for the Bobcats with her 20th stolen bag, and number 50 of her career. Lewis also set the single-season Bates record for singles with her 36th of the year. Sophomore Kelsey Freedman would provide the offensive power with a three-run home run, the first of her career, while sophomore Molly Brown would add two runs scored and an RBI.

In game two of the doubleheader, Bates would win 9-0 behind another impressive pitching performance, this time by sophomore Brenna Callahan. In another shortened game due to the

eight-run rule, Callahan threw five scoreless innings and gave up only three hits.

Over the weekend, the Bobcats were swept in a three game series by a formidable Trinity team, and the team finished the year with a 9-17 record and a disappointing 1-11 NESCAC conference record. Gattuso again made program history, striking out three in her pitching performance to set a new Bates career record of 190 strikeouts.

While the season was disappointing, Bates did have several standout performances this season. Lewis led the team with a .464 batting average, followed by Freedman, who batted .316 on the year and added 12 RBI's. Gattuso and senior catcher AnnaMarie Martino provided more offense, as Gattuso led the team with 19 RBI's and Martino had a solid year with 8 RBI's and 5 doubles, batting .275.

Freedman was also the team's most effective pitcher on the season, posting an ERA of 3.77 and leading the team with 78 innings pitched. Callahan and Gattuso were also solid with ERA's of 4.44 and 4.89, respectively.

Bates softball is an exceptionally young team, with the vast majority of its players in the freshman and sophomore classes, and this team will likely contend for many years to come given additional experience.

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Women's Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse ends season with 16-7 quarterfinal loss at Middlebury

ALEX HENRIE
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

The Bates women's lacrosse team ended their surprising 2013 season with a loss in the quarterfinals of the NESCAC championships on Saturday, falling to second-seeded Middlebury 16-7. Bates managed to pull off a respectable 4-6 NESCAC record after starting the year 0-3, and clinched the seventh seed in the playoffs.

The Lady Cats kept the score close for most of the first half, a far cry from their matchup with Middlebury earlier in the season.

The Panthers started fast, roaring out to a 6-1 lead with just under fifteen minutes remaining in the first half.

However, Bates wouldn't go away, and fought back to cut into the deficit as the half wound down. Junior Blair Shrewsbury and freshman Emma Noto sandwiched goals around a Middlebury tally, and the lead was down to 7-3 with 5:09 remaining in the first half.

That was as close as the Bobcats would get; Middlebury answered with back-to-back goals of their own to push

their halftime lead to 9-3.

After Bates freshman Moriah Greenstein scored on a free position shot early in the second half, Shrewsbury again found a way through the Panther defense, picking up a rebound and firing past Middlebury goalie Alyssa Palomba for her second goal of the day.

Unfortunately, the 10-5 score was as close as the Bobcats would get. Middlebury went on a 6-2 run the rest of the way, including a four-goal run to get to their final goal total.

Shrewsbury and fellow junior Wally Pierce each scored two goals to lead all Bates scorers, while senior captain Linnea Fulton had three draw controls, two ground balls, and two caused turnovers in her final college game.

Freshman goalie Hannah Jeffrey, the NESCAC saves leader, had 11 saves on the day, capping a stellar rookie season.

Although the Bobcats lose former All-NESCAC defender Linnea Fulton, the entire rest of the team will be back next season, when the women's lacrosse team looks to continue their upward trajectory.

The heroics of Jason Collins, and the long road ahead

DOUG STEINBERG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

History was made this past Monday as Jason Collins, center for the Washington Wizards, became the first openly gay male player in a major American sport. First of all, Collins is an ideal person to lead this movement. He is humble, honest, articulate, Stanford educated, friendly, and the epitome of professionalism. Collins is known in the NBA for being a hard worker, a tough defender who provides his team with a strong presence in the paint, and always a team-first player. In other words, you would have to actively search to find any reason not to like Jason Collins, which some people have already done, and those who have postured in opposition to Collins already look like the villains.

Collins' decision to publicly come out is heroic, especially given that he is currently a free agent not under a contract with any team, and is clearly at risk of not being signed next year. Collins will face adversity because of his sexual orientation, and he has chosen to accept some pain in order to secure his own freedom of expression and promote that of others.

Some people, notably Tim Keown of ESPN, have suggested that this story is not that big of a deal, as American sports are simply lagging behind the rest of the free world. Make no mistake, this is a huge deal, and Collins is undertaking a significant sacrifice in making a political statement like this. Again, there are no other openly gay athletes in the four major American sports, and clearly gay players feel that coming out would not be worth the backlash, both public and from within their profession. Perhaps the phenomenon that Keown is really observing is how numb much

of the public is to the fact that athletes cannot truly be themselves in the current state of professional athletics.

NBA basketball is a different culture from other professional sports, and for unclear reasons basketball locker rooms tend to be more tolerant and accepting than, say, football or baseball ones. Perhaps the small team sizes (as few as 12) in basketball forces enough personal contact between players that individuals cannot disagree with or dislike another teammate without it becoming a confrontation and distraction. In football and baseball, team size at the beginning of the year is as many as 100 players, and the anonymity that large group provides creates refuge for dislike and hate.

The NFL, in particular, has been a place lined with homophobia, which has been especially visible in recent years. I use the NFL as a paradigm simply because it is my favorite sport, and I want the league to catch up with the progress that the rest of American society has made. For example, during the NFL draft combine, scouts for certain teams inquired into college players' sexual activities, insinuating that if they were gay, then the team would not draft them. Numerous players have also commented that they would not be accepting of an openly gay teammate, including Chris Culliver of the 49ers and Mike Wallace of the Miami Dolphins. Having personally played youth and high school football for ten years, I have seen how the "macho" culture of football that emphasizes physical and mental toughness runs in contrast to homosexual stereotypes (which Jason Collins firmly debunks).

In late March, CBS Sports ran a story that a professional football player is currently seriously considering coming out of the closet sometime within the next few months and become the

first NFL player to be openly gay. Now is absolutely the right time for this player to lead the fight to break through these barriers and change the culture of the NFL.

First of all, we know that there are homosexual professional football players, and many of them. It is a statistical impossibility for there to not be at least around a dozen gay players, and if any number of these players chooses to come out, they would be making an enormous personal sacrifice. Taunts, the potential devaluation of their market value (purely speculation at this point), and the likelihood a small level of ostracism in certain situations are no easy price to pay. But this player or players would be rewarded with the knowledge that they made the league a better place.

In the movie 42: The Jackie Robinson Story, Harrison Ford, playing Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey, explained that he wanted Jackie Robinson on his team because he wanted to fall back in love with a game that he felt had been corrupted with discrimination and hatred. To be slightly melodramatic here, creating an environment where NFL players can be themselves would have a similar effect, at least for me. Not to say that the struggle of gay players would be the same as that of Jackie Robinson—it would not be quite as difficult given the legal protection afforded modern day players—but the overall result would be in the same category. Again, congratulations to Jason Collins, a true American hero, as he has already changed the world of professional sports forever. But there is a long struggle ahead to create an environment where players can be themselves in all professional sports, and this is simply the first, crucial, step.

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Men's Tennis

Men's tennis finishes season strong, earns #4 seed in NESCAC tournament

ALEX HENRIE
MANAGING SPORTS EDITOR

The Bates men's tennis team ended the regular season on the right foot, rebounding from a close loss to No. 6 nationally-ranked Bowdoin to take down both Trinity and Wesleyan at Bates' Wallach Tennis Center in their final matches of the season.

"We played two tough NESCAC teams [this weekend]; the matches went well," said senior captain Rob Crampton. Crampton added, "we're right where we want to be going into the postseason."

Before the matches against Trinity and Wesleyan, the Bobcats played host to a strong Bowdoin team. With the cloud of a hazing scandal and post-season suspensions looming, the Polar Bears still found a way to get out of Lewiston last Wednesday with a 6-3 victory.

Senior Matt Bettles led the charge for Bates, teaming up with fellow senior Crampton to win a thrilling match at No. 1 doubles 9-8 (10) before winning in straight sets at No. 2 singles, 6-3, 6-4.

Crampton fell in a tight match to Bowdoin's Noah Bragg at No. 1 singles, 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.



Rob Crampton '13. MICHAEL BRADLEY/BATES COLLEGE

Bates' only other point on the day came from junior Timmy Berg, who beat Bowdoin's Samuel King 6-3, 6-4 at No. 3 singles.

The Bobcats were back in action on Saturday against Trinity. The Bantams

managed to split the singles matches, but Bates' reliable doubles teams provided the winning margin in the match.

The No. 1 and No. 2 doubles teams both won in impressive fashion. Bettles and Crampton won 8-2 at No. 1, while

Berg and sophomore Pierre Planche won 8-5 at No. 2.

Crampton, Bettles, and Planche all won their singles matches to round out Bates' scoring on the day. Crampton and Bettles fought their way to tough

straight set victories at No. 1 and No. 2 singles, respectively, while Planche cruised to a 6-0, 6-2 win at No. 4 singles.

The Bobcats ended their regular season on Sunday, against Wesleyan. Bates again relied on doubles success to set the tone for the match; they swept doubles, taking a nearly insurmountable 3-0 lead.

The No. 1 team of Bettles and Crampton and No. 2 team of Berg and Planche both won their matches 8-3, while junior Peter Yanofsky and senior Dylan Reffe edged out a 9-7 victory at No. 3 doubles.

Bates split the singles matches 3-3, with Crampton, Bettles, and Reffe scoring wins.

Crampton and Bettles both lost only two games in straight set wins, while Reffe gutted out a 4-6, 7-6 (9), 10-8 comeback win at No. 5 singles.

"Both wins were crucial to our postseason play," said Crampton, adding, "We're right where we want to be."

With the win, Bates clinched the #4 seed in the upcoming NESCAC tournament at Amherst, where they will have a rematch with Wesleyan, seeded fifth, in the first round on Friday.

Men's Lacrosse

Men's lax falls to Tufts in NESCAC quarterfinals

DOUG STEINBERG
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After securing their first playoff birth since 2006, the Bates men's lacrosse team lost 14-10 to an extremely talented Tufts Jumbos team on Saturday in the NESCAC playoffs. The Bobcats finished the season 5-5 in their conference, and 7-6 overall to post their best record in years and show dramatic improvement from last year's 2-8 NESCAC record. The season included three 1-goal wins, including an overtime win over Amherst and a triple overtime win over Colby last week.

The 13-12 triple OT win over Colby allowed Bates to secure the fifth seed in the NESCAC, which was arguably the toughest seed to have in the eight-team field because of Tufts' overwhelming offensive talent. The Jumbos, winners of two of the last three Division III national championships, lost two games to begin the year because the majority of their team was suspended due to misconduct, but recovered to have an tremendous second half of the year and led the league in goals scored.

The game against Colby was highlighted by a career performance from sophomore attackman Jack Strain, who scored 6 goals including the game winner in the third overtime. In addition, junior goaltender Charlie Kazarian had what was likely the best game of his career, posting a career-high 19 saves. Many of Kazarian's saves came from within five yards of the crease, and his game-saving, heart-stopping overtime saves were spectacular. Other notable performances against Colby included junior midfielder Will Gilkeson's 3 goals and senior midfielder Kyle Starr's 3 assists.

Against Tufts on Saturday, Bates started off strongly as Starr answered a quick Tufts goal by scoring unassisted off of a dodge from the wing. The teams again traded goals, with Bates' coming from sophomore attackman Jack Allen, who finished a pass from senior attackman Dan Hines. The Jumbos subsequently showcased their high-powered offense, mounting a four-goal run to take a 6-2 lead in the second quarter.

Gilkeson and sophomore attackman Reed Lewallen responded with two goals in the span of a minute to close the half, but the Bobcats were unable to sustain the momentum in the third quarter. Seven Tufts goals were punctuated by only two Bobcat goals, both coming from sophomore attackman Nick Ford, and the Jumbos took a 13-6 lead into the fourth quarter.

Bates mounted a spirited comeback attempt during the final stanza, but the effort ultimately proved to be too little, too late. Freshman attackman Jack Allard, whom the Jumbos managed to keep quiet on the day, scored his only goal of the game to start the quarter. Hines and senior defenseman Andrew Berry would add back-to-back goals later in the fourth, with Berry's goal coming on a breakaway off of a faceoff win. Ford tallied the final goal of the game



Kyle Starr '13. MICHAEL BRADLEY/BATES COLLEGE

on an assist from sophomore midfielder Matt McReddie to make the final score 14-10.

The defense also played decently well, limiting a Tufts team that had previously scored 21 goals against Bowdoin. "The defense played up to a great team and proved they could hold their own against anybody in the league," noted Kazarian, who finished with an impressive 16 saves.

Despite the loss to Tufts, a team that will clearly contend for the national title again, the Bobcats had a successful season overall. The Bobcats beat three opponents that were nationally ranked, and were never really out of any game until the end.

One of the biggest storylines for the Bobcats was the high production from younger players, especially on offense, as three of the four leaders in total points were freshman or sophomores. Sophomore Jack Strain led the team in goals and total points with 27 goals and 7 assists. Allard and Ford were sensational throughout the year, as Allard (a rookie

of the year candidate) finished with 25 goals and 4 assists, and Ford with 12 goals and 16 assists. Senior Rob Highland also had a stellar season, posting 21 goals and 5 assists, and played the role of creating offensive opportunities for the team throughout the season.

"It was a great year for Bates lacrosse," added senior captain Torben Noto, "Everybody really bought in and worked hard and it was fulfilling to have a nice season. A lot of guys had incredible years on offense but it was great to see unsung heroes like [freshman] Matt Proto, [junior] Adam Binnie, and [senior] Reid Whelan step up and contribute."

Bates will graduate a lot of talent on defense, including captains Torben Noto and Charlie Clark. However, freshman David Cappellini will look to lead a young, talented group next season, and the Bobcats will retain their goaltender, Kazarian, for one more year. "I'm really optimistic about next year. I think we have a lot of young talent here," Kazarian commented.

Women's Tennis

Women's tennis wraps up season

ALEX DAUGHERTY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The women's tennis team wrapped up its regular season slate with a 6-3 loss to Wesleyan on Sunday. Bates finishes its season with a 7-11 record and a 3-6 mark in NESCAC play. The Bobcats are currently ranked 28th in the country, but will likely fall a few places in the rankings after losing to the unranked Cardinals.

The team dropped a 9-0 decision to Amherst and a 6-3 match against Brandeis before halting a four match losing streak against Wellesley in early April.

"I think we had a lot of really tough matches but we definitely persevered and never gave up, even when we were losing," said sophomore Maddie Stein.

The Bobcats scored a 5-4 upset over then 26th ranked Wellesley. Winning doubles matches for Bates was senior Jacqui Holmes and junior Lucy Brennan at number two and senior Nicole Russell and junior Kristen Doerer number three doubles. Russell and Doerer had a particularly close match, triumphing 9-8 in what turned out to be a decisive point in the match.

In singles, Bates was led by sophomore Elena Mandzhukova at number one, who grinded out a three set victory, 6-0, 5-7, 6-1. Senior Ashley Brunk also captured a three set match 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(4). Russell notched another three set victory at number five singles with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 score.

After a 9-0 setback against Trinity, the team got back on the winning track against Colby. Bates swept the doubles matches en route to an 8-1 victory. Mandzhukova, Holmes, Brunk, and Russell all won in straight sets at singles. Doerer grinded out a three set victory at number six singles with a 3-6, 7-6(4), 11-9 marathon match.

Bates then dropped another match to Amherst 8-1 before sweeping Connecticut College 9-0. Holmes secured the lone win against Amherst. All of the

singles matches were sweep wins against Connecticut College except for Brunk and sophomore Audrey Grauer who both prevailed in three set matches.

The Bobcats kept up their winning ways against Hamilton. All three doubles matches were easily decided in Bates' favor as the women rolled to an 8-1 win. Five of the six singles matches were victories for Bates and all of them were 2-0 sweeps.

"We all have worked really hard in out-of-season training and put in the time throughout the winter to help make us successful," said Stein.

However, the team has been struggling recently with three straight losses to close out the season. Bates fell 9-0 to eighth ranked Bowdoin, although Holmes put up a fight in her number two singles match, falling in three sets 7-6(5), 5-7, 10-8.

"Jacqui Holmes had some amazing matches against some of the top players in the NESCAC, beating the number two Amherst and Wesleyan players," Stein said. "She had a really great season."

Holmes then continued her strong individual play in an 8-1 loss to Tufts. The senior captain won in three sets 0-6, 7-6, 10-8. The rest of the team struggled, however, as the team captured only nine other games throughout the other five singles matches.

Bates was then unable to avoid the upset against Wesleyan, as Holmes was again the only winner in singles play with a 6-2, 7-6(4) win. The Bobcats did manage to capture two out of the three doubles matches, as Mandzhukova and Brunk won 8-3 at first doubles while Holmes and senior Jenna Burke triumphed 8-2 at third doubles.

The loss to Wesleyan cost Bates a spot in the NESCAC Championship and ended the Bobcats season.

"We all worked really hard, but more wins would be better," Stein said. "We can be more competitive with all of the NESCAC schools and make the NESCAC Championships next year."



Ashley Brunk '13. MICHAEL BRADLEY/BATES COLLEGE